

## Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D COPY: MRN READS 7884 VICE 8667

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN UNIVERSITIES OPEN WITHOUT INCIDENT

REF: LA PAZ 7118

SUMMARY: THE UNIVERSIDAD MAYOR DE SAN ANDRES (UMSA) IN LA PAZ AS WELL AS OTHER UNIVERSITIES THROUGHOUT BOLIVIA OPENED WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT NOVEMBER 3 AND SEEM TO BE CONTINUING PEACEFULLY. THE CABINET, OCTOBER 31, APPROVED A NEW BASIC LAW GOVERNING UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS (MODIFYING SIGNIFICANTLY THE PROVISIONS OF JUNE 2, 1972). END SUMMARY.

1. THE CONSEJO NACIONAL DE EDUCACION SUPERIOR (CNES) EXPLAINED THAT THE NEW LAW WOULD CONTAIN FEWER ARTICLES BECUASE IT COMMITTED SUBSIDIARY PROVISIONS TO STATUTES AND RULES. POLITICALLY, THE LAW ESTABLISHES TWO CONSULTATIVE COUNCILS OF RECTORS AND OF FACULTIES ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES (ONE PER FACULTY) WOULD SIT ON BOTH COUNCILS. HOWEVER UNDER THE NOVEMBER 9, 1974 DECREE THESE REPRESENTATIVE BODIES WILL NOT REPEAT NOT OPERATE UNTIL THE RESUMPTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES. CNES (WHOSE GOVERNING

BOARD IS NAMED BY THE PRESIDENT) WILL NAME THE KEY UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS UNTIL THE NEW LAW IS IMPLEMENTED FULLY.

2. REPORTEDLY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY ALSO PICKED UP AND DETAINED FEW POSSIBLE LEADERS OF DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND. DETAINING THIS GROUP (18 OR MORE) IN ADDITION TO LEFTIST STUDENTS ALREADY UNDER DETENTION SINCE EARLY OCTOBER (REFTEL), APPARENTLY REMOVED POTENTIAL "TROUBLE MAKERS". STUDENTS WERE WELL-AWARE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO PICK UP SEVERAL MORE FORMER ACTIVISTS IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLES.

3. PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITIES, THE EMBASSY HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT SOME ANTI-GOVERNMENT STUDENTS GROUPS HAD ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. ACCORDING TO THEIR REASONING, THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED OR EVEN ANXIOUS TO CLOSE THE UNIVERSITIES AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO ANY DEMONSTRATIONS. IN FACT, THE GOVERNMENT SEEMED QUITE PLEASED WITH THE QUIET RENEWAL OF UNIVERSITY LIFE AND RELEASED THE GROUP OF STUDENTS IT HAD TEMPORARY DETAINED OVER THE WEEKEND. HOWEVER, THE STUDENTS ARRESTED EARLIER WERE NOT REPEAT NOT RELEASED.

4. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS CONGRATULATED GOVERNMENT AND STUDENTS ON THE TROUBLE-FREE OPENING, WHILE REPORTING SOME COMPLAINTS FROM VARIOUS UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OVER FORCED RETIREMENTS AND LAYOFFS. EMBASSY IS POUCHING TEXT OF NEW DECREES REGULATING UNIVERSITIES TO DEPARTMENT AND WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR UNIVERSITY SCENE.  
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## Message Attributes

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